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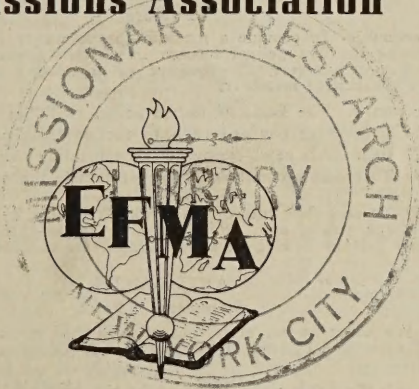
CONSTITUTION

and

BY-LAWS

of the

Evangelical Foreign Missions Association



Evangelical Foreign Missions Association

408 Kellogg Bldg., 1422 F. St. N. W.

Washington 4, D. C.

1951?

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS EVANGELICAL FOREIGN MISSIONS ASSOCIATION

Preamble

Grateful to Almighty God for the gift of salvation through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and humbly invoking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we recognize our responsibility under the great commission to give all men everywhere the privilege of hearing and receiving this message of salvation.

There yet remain hundreds of tribes in whose language no witness for Christ has been given and other vast multitudes who have never heard the Gospel. The authoritative claim of Christ's command, "Go ye," the dire need of mankind, and the lateness of the hour, present an urgent call to all evangelical foreign missionary agencies to more effectively evangelize the unreached of our generation and thus contribute to the completing of the Church. This need and the rapidly developing world situation challenge us to present a united front in this God-given task. For this purpose we do hereby establish an organization which shall function under the following constitution:

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this organization shall be:

EVANGELICAL FOREIGN MISSIONS ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE II

Purpose

Section 1. To provide a medium for voluntary united action among the evangelical foreign missionary agencies without, however, exercise of executive or legislative council over the constituent members.

Section 2. The fields of united action shall be:

- (1) In making our approach to the governments,
- (2) In matters of co-operative transportation and purchasing,
- (3) To promote comity and co-operation in the mission fields, and
- (4) To stimulate interest in foreign missions and to encourage young men and women to respond to the call of God and secure effective training for missionary service.

ARTICLE III

Statement of Faith

We adopt as our statement of faith that given in the constitution and by-laws of the National Association of Evangelicals.

- (1) We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.
- (2) We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- (3) We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father and in His personal return in power and glory.
- (4) We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful man regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
- (5) We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.

- (6) We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life, and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
- (7) We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE IV

Membership

Section 1. Eligibility. Evangelical foreign missionary agencies which accept and comply with the statement of faith and the standards hereinafter set forth shall be eligible for membership in this association.

- (1) The agency shall be properly organized for this purpose, with a responsible board of directors.
- (2) It shall be a sending agency having not less than ten active foreign missionaries in service. Agencies having less than ten active foreign missionaries may be elected to membership pursuant to a written consent signed by two-thirds of the total membership of the board of directors.
- (3) It shall publish annually a properly audited financial report.
- (4) It must be of good repute and subscribe to and abide by the following standards of comity:
 - a. **MESSAGE:** Since differences in practice and doctrinal interpretation frequently cause comity problems, there must be a mutual recognition of a message as evangelical if it presents a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ in accord with the E.F.M.A. statement of faith.
 - b. **TERRITORY:** The evangelization of fields should be by the mutual agreement of all evangelicals and insofar as possible, with all others concerned.
 - c. **PERSONNEL:** Missionaries or national workers under discipline by a mission or church should not be accepted by another mission or church without mutual consultation. Neither should missionaries, missionary candidates, or workers be encouraged to leave their missions or churches through offers of increased salary or other inducements.
 - d. **PRESENTATION:** Care should be taken by each mission board and its representatives to state correctly the facts concerning its work and workers avoiding the use of pictures and illustrations from other missions without giving due credit to the respective societies.

Section 2. Application. Application for membership shall be in writing on forms prescribed from time to time by the board of directors.

Section 3. Election. Election to membership shall be by two-thirds vote of the members of the board of directors at any regular or special meeting of the board. No application shall be submitted to the board for vote without written notice of the name of the applicant and of the intention to submit the application having been mailed by the secretary to all members of the board not less than thirty days prior to the meeting.

Section 4. Representation. Member agencies shall exercise their right of membership through, and shall be represented at meetings of the Association by, a representative or representatives. Each member agency shall be entitled to send one voting representative to the annual meeting. In addition agencies having more than one hundred active missionaries in foreign service shall be entitled to one additional voting representative for each additional one hundred active

missionaries or fraction thereof. No member shall be allowed more than five voting representatives.

Section 5. Duration of Membership and Resignation. Membership in the Association may terminate by dissolution or other cessation of existence on the part of the member organization, by voluntary withdrawal, or by action of the Association's board of directors pursuant to the Constitution and By-Laws. On termination of membership, all rights, privileges and interest of a member in or to the Association, its rights, privileges and property, shall cease.

Section 6. Voluntary Withdrawal. By giving written notice of such intention to the secretary, any member may withdraw from membership provided such member's dues have been paid to the end of the current fiscal year. The notice shall be presented to the board of directors at its next succeeding meeting.

Section 7. Suspension and Expulsion. Any member may be suspended or expelled from the Association for cause, by two-thirds vote of the annual meeting upon recommendation of the board of directors.

ARTICLE V

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Organizations which are not sending agencies but which are established for the purpose of serving missionary interests and which meet all other requirements for full membership may be accepted as associate members. This does not include those that may be engaged primarily in forwarding funds to missions or missionaries for whom they have no actual responsibility and over whose activities they have little or no control.

Section 2. Associate members shall share in all the privileges and obligations of regular members with the following exceptions:

- (1) They shall not be eligible for election to the board of directors.
- (2) They shall pay only the annual membership fee of \$100.00.
- (3) They shall be entitled to one voting representative for each agency at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE VI

RELATIONSHIP TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICALS

This Association shall be affiliated with the National Association of Evangelicals. The affiliation shall be by contract with the National Association of Evangelicals. This contract is deemed met since this Constitution and By-Laws are so drafted as to be in accordance with the policy of the N.A.E. as passed on September 19, 1945, with reference to its relation to affiliated organizations. The board of directors of this Association shall function as the Commission of the National Association of Evangelicals in the field of foreign missions, except that any director not wishing to serve on the Commission may decline so to do. The president of the Association shall be a member of the Board of Administration of the National Association of Evangelicals.

ARTICLE VII

Dues

Each member organization shall pay an annual membership fee of one hundred dollars. In addition, each member organization shall contribute an amount as shall be determined by the Association at its annual meeting, based upon the number of missionaries in active service in that organization. Active service is defined as including those missionaries on the field and those on furlough, but not those in retirement.

ARTICLE VIII

Meetings

Section 1. The annual meeting of this organization shall be held in the month of April or May of each year preceding the annual convention of the National Association of Evangelicals unless otherwise ordered by a two-thirds vote of the board of directors. The secretary shall send written notice of the time and place of the annual meeting to each member not less than six months in advance of the meeting. At such meeting the officers and directors of the Association shall be elected, the dues for the ensuing year shall be fixed, and there shall be transacted any other business that may be properly and legally presented.

Section 2. **Special.** Special meetings of the Association may be called, and the time and place thereof may be fixed by the board of directors or by the executive committee, either on their own initiative or on written request by not less than twenty per cent of the members of the Association. The secretary shall send written notice of the time and place of such special meeting, together with a statement of the subjects to be considered, to each member not less than thirty days in advance of the meeting.

Section 3. **Quorum.** At any duly called meeting of the members, fifty per cent of the members shall constitute a quorum. If less than a quorum is present, a majority of the members present may adjourn the meeting from time to time until a quorum is present.

Section 4. **Order of Business.** The order of business shall be determined by rules to be prepared by the executive committee. Any question as to priority of business shall be decided by the chair. The order of business may be altered or suspended at any meeting by a majority vote of the members present. The parliamentary rules as laid down in "Robert's Rules of Order" shall govern all debates when not in conflict with these By-Laws.

ARTICLE IX

Directors

Section 1. **Number and Term of Office.** The business and affairs of the Association shall be managed by and under the direction of a board of directors. The board shall consist of the four elected officers of the Association, (the president, the vice president, the secretary and the treasurer), who shall serve ex-officio, and of twelve directors-at-large. All officers shall be elected for one year, directors for three years. A majority of the members of the board of directors shall be elected by the National Association of Evangelicals as outlined below. Nominations for these shall be made by this Association. Their election shall be staggered so as to provide for the election of four each year. No agency shall be represented by more than one director.

Section 2. **Election.** The first directors shall be elected at the meeting at which these By-Laws are adopted. At this meeting the Association shall place upon the board of directors its four elected officers and also three directors-at-large who shall be elected respectively to serve for terms of three years, two years, and one year. The Association shall also nominate for confirmation by the National Association of Evangelicals, three directors to serve for three years each, three for two years each and three for one year each. Thereafter there shall be added at each annual meeting, in addition to the four regularly elected officers, one director-at-large elected by this Association and three directors-at-large elected by the N.A.E., for whom this Association shall make nominations. All of these directors-at-large shall serve for terms of three years. If a director whose term has not expired is elected as an officer, his posi-

tion as a director shall be declared vacant and the vacancy shall be filled at the same annual meeting.

Section 3. Vacancies. Any vacancies that may occur on the board or in the office held by an elected officer shall be filled by the board for the period expiring with the next annual meeting, with the exception that where the original election was by N.A.E., the vacancy shall be filled by them, the board of directors of this Association making nomination for the vacancy. Any director shall automatically become ineligible to continue as a member of the board, and the remaining directors shall thereupon declare a vacancy to exist, if the membership of the member organization with whom such director has been associated is terminated or if such director ceases to be associated with a member organization. A successor shall be elected to fill said vacancy in the manner above specified. Discretion to determine ineligibility under this section shall rest solely with the board of directors.

Section 4. Meetings. The board of directors shall hold regular meetings at such times and places as it shall determine, provided, however, that not less than two regular meetings shall be held each year and that one of these shall be held immediately following the annual meeting of the Association and at the place thereof. The president may, when he deems it necessary, or the president or secretary shall, at the request in writing of five members of the board, issue a call for a special meeting of the board, on ten days' written notice to each member of the board.

Section 5. Quorum. A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum for all purposes unless herein otherwise provided.

Section 6. Powers of the Board. The business and property of the corporation shall be managed by the board of directors and for that purpose it shall have, possess and exercise all the powers conferred upon the corporation excepting those reserved to the membership.

Section 7. Executive Committee. The board shall, at its regular meeting immediately following the annual meeting of the Association, establish an executive committee to consist of the four elected officers of the Association and three other directors to be elected by the board. The executive committee shall have such powers and duties as are reposed in it by these By-Laws, and the board may delegate to the executive committee such of the board's powers and duties as the board may deem necessary or desirable for the proper and efficient functioning of the Association.

Section 8. Absence. Any director absent from a meeting shall notify the president or the secretary of the reason for his absence. The directors present at the meeting shall decide whether or not such absence is excusable. In the event of three consecutive unexcused absences on the part of any director, his membership on the board shall be declared vacant.

Section 9. Travel Allowances. The board shall have power to pay traveling expenses of officers, committees, members and others in cases where such expenses are incurred in carrying out the business of the Association.

Section 10. Annual Audit. The board shall direct an annual audit of the Association's books by competent public accountants.

ARTICLE X

Officers

Section 1. Titles and Terms of Office. The officers of the Association shall be a president, a vice president, a secretary and a treasurer, who shall hold office until their successors are elected at the next annual meeting of the Association and

have qualified in their stead. The president shall be eligible to succeed himself in office for one term only.

Section 2. Election. The first officers of the Association shall be elected at the meeting at which these By-Laws are adopted. Thereafter, the officers shall be elected at each annual meeting.

Section 3. Subordinate Officers. The board of directors or, if the board so authorize, the executive committee may appoint or employ an executive secretary and such assistant secretaries, assistant treasurers, or other subordinate officers and agents as it may deem necessary or desirable. Such subordinate officers and agents thus appointed shall hold office for such terms, and shall have such powers and duties, as shall be prescribed from time to time by the board or the committee consistently with these By-Laws. Any such subordinate officer or agent may be removed at any time by majority vote of the body appointing him.

Section 4. President. The president shall be the chief executive officer of the Association, and shall preside at meetings of the Association, of the board of directors, and of the executive committee. He shall be a member ex-officio, with right to vote, of all committees, except the nominating committee. The president shall be a member ex-officio of the Board of Administration of N.A.E. and chairman of the N.A.E. Commission on Foreign Missions.

Section 5. Vice President. In the case of death or absence of the president, or of his inability from any cause to act, the vice president shall perform for the time being the duties of the president's office, and, in addition thereto, shall perform such other duties as the board of directors shall from time to time prescribe.

Section 6. Secretary. The secretary shall give notice of and attend all meetings of the Association, of the board of directors, of the executive committee, and shall keep a record of their proceedings, including all votes, in a book or books to be kept for that purpose; conduct correspondence; have custody of the seal of the Association and, when authorized by the board or by the executive committee, affix the seal to any instrument requiring it and attest it by his signature. He shall keep an accurate roll of the names and addresses of the members of the Association which shall be the Association's official record thereof, and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the board or by the executive committee.

Section 7. Treasurer. The treasurer shall collect dues, assessments and subscriptions; have custody of the Association's funds, valuable effects and securities and cause them to be kept in a safe deposit box as directed by the board of directors; keep full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the Association; deposit all moneys in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as shall be approved by the board; make disbursements authorized by the board or by the executive committee, causing proper vouchers to be taken for such disbursements; render to the board and to the executive committee at regular meetings, and at such other times as they may require, a report of the treasurer's transactions and of the financial condition of the Association; prepare, under the direction of the executive committee, an annual report of the treasurer's transactions and of the financial condition of the Association; and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the board or by the executive committee. The board of directors shall arrange for the bonding of the treasurer in such amount as it may determine.

Section 8. Delivery of Books, Etc. At the expiration of their terms of office, the secretary and the treasurer shall deliver over to their respective successors or to the president,

all books, moneys or other property of the Association in their possession, custody and control.

Section 9. **Delegation of Officers' Duties.** In the case of absence or incapacity of any officer of the Association, the board of directors may, for the time being, delegate the powers and duties of any such officer to any other officer, or to any member of the board.

ARTICLE XI

Seal

The Association shall have a seal of such design as the board of directors may adopt. The seal may be used by having it, or a facsimile thereof, impressed, affixed, or otherwise reproduced.

ARTICLE XII

Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Association shall begin on the first day of April of each year.

ARTICLE XIII

Notices

Whenever, under the provisions of these By-Laws, notice is required to be given to any member of the Association or to any member of the board of directors or of the executive committee, it shall not be construed to be personal notice. Such notice shall be given by mail, by depositing the same in the post office or a letter box in a postpaid, sealed wrapper, or by prepaid telegram, properly addressed to such member as such address appears on the books of the Association. Any member of the Association, and any member of the board or of the committee, may waive any such requirement of notice.

ARTICLE XIV

Amendments

The Constitution and By-Laws may be altered or amended by two-thirds vote of the duly qualified representatives present at an annual meeting of the Association, except that in the case of any modification of the contractual relationship with National Association of Evangelicals, the consent of the National Association of Evangelicals shall further be required. It is provided that the proposed changes shall have been filed in written form with the secretary at the preceding annual meeting. Immediately after such meeting and in no event less than six months prior to the time of the annual meeting which is to consider the change, the secretary shall send copies of the proposed changes to each member of the Association.

ARTICLE XV

Incorporation

The board of directors as originally constituted is hereby authorized and directed forthwith to cause this Association to be incorporated as a membership non-profit corporation in such jurisdiction or jurisdictions as it may deem appropriate. To the extent permitted by the laws of such jurisdiction, said board shall be the first board of directors of the corporation, and the members of this Association shall be members of the corporation; the certificate of incorporation shall be such as to authorize adoption of these By-Laws; and the board of directors of the corporation shall have power to adopt these By-Laws as the By-Laws of the corporation.